

Remarks

This REPLY is in reply to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2007. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2007, Claims 1-18 and 20-22 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 11 were objected to because of various informalities. Claims 1 and 11 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,149, hereafter Achacoso) in view of Balabanovic (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,826). Claims 2-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic, and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,241, hereafter Ozzie).

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendment

The present Reply amends Claims 1 and 11, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-18 and 20-22. Reconsideration of the Application, is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 11 were objected to because of various informalities. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 have been amended as shown above to correct the informalities. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed August 31, 2007, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,149) in view of Balabanovic (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,826). Claims 2-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,241).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the current Response to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, Claim 1 defines:

1. *(Currently Amended) A collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising:
a central collaboration hub hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners;
a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner,
wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation, and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and
a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol.*

Claim 1, as currently amended, defines a collaboration system comprising a central collaboration hub hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving

and sending messages between business trading partners; and a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub. Any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner. A messaging protocol allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation.

The advantages of the embodiment currently defined by Claim 1 include that the collaboration hub allows each trading partner to use locally any one of several business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabularies (for example, one trading partner may locally use a RosettaNet business protocol vocabulary to define its own workflow, while another trading partner may locally use an EDI business protocol). By providing a plurality of business protocol handlers, the system supports a workflow between the business-to-business processes at each of the trading partners, even though those business-to-business processes would otherwise utilize different business-to-business electronic trading business protocols.

Achacoso discloses a system and method for communicating information among members of a distributed discussion group having peripheral communication devices, and which includes communication between the peripheral communication devices and a central agent. As disclosed therein, the central agent receives and stores messages intended for at least one other group member, and creates a notice informing the at least one other group member that such a message exists and containing a channel (e.g., a hyperlink) directly to the memory location of the message. (Abstract).

Balabanovic discloses a method and apparatus for generating visual representations for audio documents. (Abstract). As disclosed therein, a multimedia chronicle is a particular type of audio narrative that includes a singular narration thread and one or more references to various

types of electronic documents. Multiple sub-chronicles, each containing a singular narration thread, may be combined to form a larger multimedia chronicle. (Column 8, lines 16-23). Once a multimedia chronicle is created, user "A" may send the multimedia chronicle to another user via electronic mail. In one embodiment, in order to send the multimedia chronicle to another user, an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle is created. Once an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle is created, a unique URL pointing to the XML representation is subsequently emailed to another user, say user "B". (Column 9, line 16 - Column 10, line 3).

In the Office Action, it was submitted that Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner. It was further submitted that Balabanovic teaches a messaging protocol that allows each business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, and that the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol.

However, Applicant respectfully traverses this comparison, and submits that while Balabanovic appears to describe the transfer of emails and other audiovisual documents, it does not appear to describe the use of business protocols, as this term is used in the claims to define a business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols. Such business protocols are commonly used in electronic data interchange and business-to-business or ecommerce trading. To more clearly define this, Claim 1 has been amended to define that the plurality of business protocol handlers are configured to recognize different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols. Claim 1 has also been

amended to define that any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub. The messaging protocol has been more clearly defined as allowing the routing information to be specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol. Applicant respectfully submits that, neither Achacoso nor Balabanovic, when considered alone or in combination, appear to disclose or to render obvious these features.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as currently amended, is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 11

The comments provided above with respect to Claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claim 11 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11, as amended, is likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22

Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22 are not addressed separately but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the amendments to the independent claims and the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration

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Response dated: February 29, 2008

thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including February 29, 2008.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 29, 2008

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